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of Michigan, has reached Manila after six weeks spent in examining the Bonin, Marianne and Caroline Islands in the western Pacific Ocean. Until he reached Yap on September 11, he was traveling as the guest of the Japanese Navy Department. At Yap the U. S. gunboat *Bittern* was placed at his disposal and the Pelews and scattered islands to the southwest were visited. He sailed on the *Bittern* on October 3 for a 4000-mile cruise along the great Sumatra mountain arc and through the Nicobar and Andaman islands to Rangoon, Burmah. He will then proceed to Europe to lecture at the Universities of Delft and Utrecht, during the spring semester.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the University of Colorado is waging an active campaign to raise the remaining \$200,000 necessary to insure the erection of the new medical school and state hospital. Toward the \$1,500,000 which the project will cost, the General Education Board has pledged \$700,000 and the state has appropriated \$600,000, both sums contingent upon the raising of the \$200,000 balance by the university. An effort will be made to obtain one dollar from each of 200,000 citizens of Colorado.

DR. ELIHU THOMSON, chief consulting engineer of the General Electric Company, has again been appointed acting president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a post which he filled after the death of Dr. Richard C. Maclaurin in January, 1920, and will continue until a successor to President Nichols is named. The educational affairs of the institute will continue to be directed by a faculty administrative committee consisting of Professor Henry P. Talbot, head of the department of chemistry and acting dean; Professor Edward F. Miller, head of the department of mechanical engineering and chairman of the faculty, and Professor Edwin B. Wilson, head of the department of physics.

ELIOT BLACKWELDER, A.B., Ph.D. (Chicago),

will become professor of geology at Stanford University next year, succeeding Dr. Bailey Willis, who will retire in accordance with the provision by which professors of Stanford become emeritus at the age of sixty-five. Professor Blackwelder is now lecturing at Harvard, filling the place of Professor Daly, who is absent on leave in South Africa.

E. H. WELLS, who has conducted special geological investigations for the Chino Copper Company, has been elected president of the New Mexico State School of Mines at Socorro.

DR. E. EUGENE BARKER, formerly assistant professor of plant breeding in Cornell University and more recently of the Insular Government Service, Las Piedras, Porto Rico, has become associate professor of botany, with particular reference to genetics, in the University of Georgia.

C. W. WATSON, a graduate of the Yale Forest School in 1920, has been called to the School of Forestry, University of Idaho, as instructor in forestry. Mr. Watson spent the past year in study abroad under a traveling fellowship in forestry granted by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

MR. STANLEY WYATT, investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board in England, has been appointed lecturer in psychology at the University of Manchester.

COL. SIR GERALD LENOX-CONYNGHAM, F.R.S., has been appointed fellow and prelector in geodesy at Trinity College, Cambridge.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF HELMHOLTZ'S "OPTIK"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Many readers of SCIENCE will be glad to know that the council of the Optical Society has appointed a committee to make arrangements for bringing out an English translation of Helmholtz's great work on physiological optics.

The first edition of the "Handbuch der physiologischen Optik" was published in 1866, more than half a century ago; and the fact that this epoch-making work, which remains to-day the most original treatise on physiolog-